Currie, Sir Arthur William, 1875 - 1933

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July 14th, 1919

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,

London,

England.

My dear Sir Arthur:

We are looking forward with very much pleasure to having you visit the University in the autumn in order to receive the honorary degree of LL.D. Since I last wrote to you our arrangements for other events in the University have led us to think that if it were possible to postpone your coming to us until some time in the week beginning November 10th the ceremony would be more effective. The reasons are these: A very fine building, called the Park House, the gift of the Massey Estate, is to be opened in the autumn, and we are asking His Excellency the Governor General to be present on that occasion. His Excellency has been unable to come until some time in the week beginning November 10th. At the same time as the opening of the Park House we wish to lay the foundation stone of the memorial to our soldiers who served overseas, and we all are of opinion that if you could lay the foundation stone it would add greatly to the distinction of the occasion. We think also that if on the same occasion we could have a Special Convocation and give you and others honorary degrees the whole ceremony would be very effective. Would you be kind enough to let me know whether you will find it possible to change your arrangements that you were good enough to make with us as to the

earlier date ?

lours sincerely,

President.

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Headquarters, Canadian Corps,
Oxford Circus House,
245 Oxford Street, W.1,

30th July, 1919.

Dear Sir Robert,

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 14th. As I expect to be in Canada for the middle of August, perhaps it would be as well if we allowed the matter of the date to remain until then.

I shall do my very best to meet your wishes, for I am deeply sensible of the high honour the University of Toronto propose to pay me.

I am booked to sail on the CARONIA on the 7th, and shall be very glad indeed to get back to Canada.

With all good wishes, I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

Arthur

Sir Robert Faulkner,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

August 27th, 1919

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,

Care General J. A. Gunn,

Headquarters M.D. #2,

Toronto.

Dear General Currie:

I am very sorry that I shall not be able to see you when you are in Toronto this week, but I have been here for four days on account of the Prince and must leave the city to-night.

We are looking forward with great pleasure to your visit, and I now wish to ask you when it will be most convenient for you to come to us in order to get the degree. I wrote to you originally about coming in the first week of October. I then asked you whether you would defer your visit until November, and in your reply of the 30th July you said that you would try to meet our wishes. On the whole it would be more convenient for us to have you come on Tuesday, November 11th, because on that day the Hart House, which is a magnificent new building given to us for the men students of the University, is to be opened by His Excellency, the Duke of Devonshire. Probably on the same occasion we might lay the cornerstone of the memorial for our fallen men. It would therefore seem to us if a combination of the Convocation for your degree and the opening of Hart House would make a very

effective ceremony.

If, however, you are unable to be with us on the 11th of November, we shall be glad to have a Convocation on Tuesday, October 7th, if that suits you. Perhaps you would let me know this week so that we may finally make our arrangements.

I have asked General Mitchell to speak to you about the matter and he will explain more fully than I am able to do by letter.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

September 6th, 1919

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.B.,G.C.M.G.,K.C.B.,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear General Currie:

I am very glad to know from General Mitchell that the 11th of November will be a convenient date for you to come to Toronto and accept the honorary degree from the University. To me it seems a most appropriate day being the first anniversary of Armistice Day. I do not need to assure you that we look forward with the greatest pleasure to having you with us. It is not only a pleasure but an honour. I regret that I was unable to see you last week.

Yours sincerely,

President.

November 1st, 1919

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
Department of Militia and Defence,
Ottawa.

My dear General Currie:

This note is to remind you that we are looking forward to your being with us on Tuesday, November 11th. The proceedings are as follows: At noon the Hart House will be opened by His Excellency the Governor-General, thereafter there will be a luncheon, after luncheon we form a procession at the Hart House and proceed to the Convocation Hall, where you will be given an honorary degree, and after you several others. It is hoped that you will give a short address to the students after the degrees have been conferred. We shall then return to the Hart House, and at the request of His Excellency the Governor-General you will, we hope, lay the foundation Stone of the new memorial for the fallen soldiers. In the evening a dinner will be given by the Board of Governors in Hart House to the visiting guests and some of our graduates. The day will thus be very full, but I hope you will find it interesting.

It will give my wife and myself much pleasure if you and Lady Currie will be our guests at 49 St. George Street while you are in the city. If you will be good enough to let us know when we may expect you I will see that you are met at the train.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

CANADIAN PACIFIC R'Y. CO.'S TELEGRAPH

FORM T. G. 1

TELEGRAM

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2505

SIR ROBERT FALCONER

- UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, TORONTO ONT.

MY PHYSICIAN ADVISE EMPHATICALLY AGAINST MY RETURN TO WORK DURING NOVEMBER AND URGES ME TO REMAIN ON VANCOUVERISLAND UNTIL DECEMBER

FIRST STOP THE DEPARTMENT HAVE AGREED TO THIS AND HERE I PROPOSE TO SPEND NOVEMBER ARRIVING IN OTTAWA ABOUT DECEMBER

TENTH STOP I REGRET MORE THAN I CAN SAY MY HAVING TO ASK YOU TO FORGIVE ME FOR NOT BEING

IN TORONTO ON THE ELEVENTH AND ONLY THE CONDITION OF MY HEALTH COULD INFLUENCE ME IN ALTERING MY FORMER PLANS.

GENERAL CURRIE.

310AM

November 6th, 1919

General Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.M.G.,
Victoria, B.C.

My Dear General Currie:

It was with the greatest regret that I received your telegram. The regret was twofold. In the first place that you are in such a state of health as to necessitate your not being with us, and the second is the disappointment that your absence will occasion to us all. If you had been here the day would have been complete. Without you it will lack a very important element. I hope, however, that your health will soon be restored, and that at some future time we may have the pleasure of welcoming you formally at the University and presenting you in person for the degree.

His Excellency has kindly undertaken to lay the foundation Stone of the War Memorial.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

November 17th, 1919

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
Victoria,
B.C.

My dear General Currie:

Except for your absence the proceedings last Tuesday went with a hitch. If you had been here to receive the degree I am sure that there would have been a very much heightened interest. However, weather and arrangements combined to make a very memorable day.

The degree was not conferred upon you though I made an announcement that it was our intention to do so and we hope to have you at the Convocation next June when we will formally confer it.

I will try to get you a paper of Wednesday which has a fairly full account of the proceedings.

Hoping that you will soon be better,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

April 10th, 1920

General Sir Arthur Currie,
Department of Militia and Defence,
Ottawa.

Dear General Currie:

The regular Convocation at which honorary degrees are conferred will be held at the close of this session on Thursday evening, June 3rd, at eight o'clock. I hope that it will be possible for you to come to Toronto and accept the degree formally on that occasion.

Yours sincerely,

President.

April 30th, 1920

General Sir Arthur Currie,
Department of Militia and Defence,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear General Currie:

We are all very much pleased to know that you are to be present to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on Thursday evening, June 3rd.

We will provide the academic costume that it is necessary for you to wear that evening, as we have a gown that we use for distinguished visitors on such occasions.

We hope that after the degrees have been conferred you will speak on behalf of the recipients and give an address to the audience assembled in Convocation.

If it is agreeable to you the University will be very glad to have you as its guest at the York Club during your visit to the city ?

Yours sincerely,

President.

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E.H.

Ottawa, 3rd May, 1920.

Dear Sir Robert,-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of April the 30th.

I think it more than likely that Lady Currie shall accompany me to Toronto on the occasion mentioned, but please do not let that fact interfere with anything you wish me to do.

I hope the audience assembled in convocation will be satisfied with a brief address.

With best wishes and pleasant anticipation,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

D. Currie

General,
Inspector-General & Military Counsellor.

Sir Robert Falconer,
KCMG.,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

May 4th, 1920

General Sir Arthur Currie,
Inspector-General,
Department of Militia and Defence,
Ottawa, Ont. We are very glad to know that there is a chance of Lady Currie accompanying you to Toronto, and if you will allow us we will reserve a room for you as our guests at the King Edward Hotel ?

With kind regards, I am,
Yours sincerely,

President.

L.

Ottawa, 5th May, 1920.

Dear Sir Robert,-

I thank you for your letter of May 4th in which you were good enough to intimate that you will reserve a room for Lady Currie and myself at the time of my visit to Toronto on June 3rd.

Ever yours faithfully,

A W Currie

General.
Inspector General & Military Counsellor.

Sir Robert A. Falconer, K.C.M.G.,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

L. Ottawa, 24th May, 1920.

Dear Sir Robert,-

I acknowledge with most grateful thanks receipt of your letter of May 21st in which you were good enough to offer your congratulations on my acceptance of the Principalship of McGill University. I assure, Sir Robert, that I hesitated long before accepting the position for I realise my own limitations. I look forward to my work in Montreal with feelings of keen interest and pleasure. I appreciate that the position affords me opportunities for most useful service to our country. As I have stated in a letter to Gen'l. Mitchell today I regard the Universities of Canada as the strategetical points in the battle line resisting all those influences and agencies which seek to pull down, to corrupt and to destroy a true citizenship. To have the opportunity of coming into close contact with so many of our young men and women each year is a wonderful opportunity. I thank you, Sir Robert, for your promise to give me your advice. I assure you that in all probability I shall often come to you. I most cordially reciprocate your hope that the relations between the Universities of Toronto and McGill will always be of the most cordial character.

It always gives me great satisfaction to know that the University of Toronto was the first to offer me an honourary degree for I am an old boy and at one time in my life looked forward to attending at Toronto having passed the necessary academic examination. I am looking forward with much pleasure to seeing you on June 3rd.

With all good wishes, I am

Ever yours faithfully,

Sir Robert Falconer,
Pres., Toronto University,
Toronto, Ont.

A W Currie
~~Inspector General & Military Counsellor.~~ General.

May 28th, 1920

General Sir Arthur Currie,
Department of Militia and Defence,
Ottawa, Ont.

My dear General Currie:

General Townshend, who is to receive an honorary degree next Thursday night, is greatly worried over the fact that his military uniform will not arrive in time. We are unable to postpone the date, but I think that in the circumstances it might be more convenient for him if you also were not to appear in full military uniform. I simply make this as a suggestion. Evening dress will be quite suitable.

Yours sincerely,

President.